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SURVEY OF HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

THE SOCIETY AND THE STATE

During the three months' period ending January 10, 1921, there were fifty additions to the membership roll of the State Historical Society. Six of these enrolled as life members, as follows: J. Henry Bennett, Viroqua; Charles W. Dinger, Eau Claire; Mrs. Jessica H. Fuller, Madison; Mrs. James A. McIntosh, New York City; Milo C. Richter, Milwaukee; Dutee A. Whelan, Mondovi.

Forty-three persons became annual members of the Society: Mrs. T. W. Baker, Waunakee; John Bauman, Eau Claire; Spencer D. Beebe, Sparta; Mrs. Giles F. Belknap, Waukesha; Albert M. Bowen, Brodhead; Myron P. Bowen, Milwaukee; W. A. Brooks, Menasha; Jannette Burlingham, Shullsburg; Rev. Guy Campbell, South Wayne; Charles B. Case, Prairie du Chien; Mrs. F. W. Chadbourne, Fond du Lac; Odin Christenson, Nelsonville; Albert N. Coombs, Waukesha; Henry A. Cooper, Racine; Edward M. Dousman, Madison; Frank W. Downs, Washburn; Frank S. Durham, Neenah; Walter C. English, Wyocena; Adolph F. Estberg, Waukesha; William A. Freehoff, Waukesha; John B. Imig, Waukesha; William G. Kaufmann, Sheboygan; Jay G. Laing, Waukesha; Carl Landsee, Milwaukee; Aimee Levin, Waukesha; Albert G. Love, Waukesha; A. W. MacLeod, Washburn; Frank Melcher, Madison; Willis H. Miner, Menasha; Oscar Morris, Milwaukee; Don E. Mowry, Madison; Laura M. Olsen, Eau Claire; Mrs. A. E. Proudfit, Madison; Lowell J. Ragatz, Madison; Frederick Reisweber, Milwaukee; Frances M. Roddis, Marshfield; Henry Rothschild, St. Paul, Minn.; Mowry Smith, Menasha; Lynn B. Stiles, Milwaukee; Thomas S. Thompson, Mount Horeb; Lucille Van Alstine, Milwaukee; Charles C. Willson, Rochester, Minn.; Otto J. Zander, Brillion.

The Richland Center High School enrolled as a Wisconsin school member.

Otto H. Lacher, Detroit, Mich., changed from annual to life-membership.

Hon. P. V. Lawson of Menasha passed away in his sleep during the night of November 30–December 1, 1920, at the age of sixty-seven years. Mr. Lawson was born in Corning, New York, November 1, 1853, and was brought to Wisconsin by his parents in 1854. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin with the class of 1879 and practiced law in Menasha till 1888 when, on account of ill health, he retired from the profession in which he had attained prominence and entered the manufacturing field where he soon gained distinction.

Mr. Lawson was a devoted student of the history and antiquities of Wisconsin. He made himself an authority on Indian remains and gathered a fine collection of Indian relics. He was for many years a very active member of the State Historical Society, and at the annual meeting in October, 1920, he was unanimously elected to the office of curator. As chairman of the Committee on Historic Landmarks, Mr. Lawson performed a valuable service to Wisconsin history in causing

historic sites to be properly marked. Among his services was a vigorous and effective campaign he made to save the prehistoric town of Aztalan from being obliterated. He also did much to make the people conscious of the heroic period of early Wisconsin history by marking the forts and battle-fields of the Indian wars. In these matters, as in his private business, Mr. Lawson was an enthusiast. He was always prepared to use his time, abilities, influence, and means to further the cause of Wisconsin history. In his death the Society loses one who, as curator, would undoubtedly have advanced its interests strongly. J. S.

George B. Hopkins of New York City, a former resident of Wisconsin and a member of the State Historical Society, died suddenly at his home, December 13, 1920. After leaving the University of Wisconsin Mr. Hopkins engaged in railroad work, building several lines in the northern part of the state. He later located in Chicago and then in St. Louis, where he was connected with the Wabash railroad. On removing to New York he engaged in banking. He retired from active business several years ago. At the time of his death he was chairman of the Municipal Art Society and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Philharmonic Society of New York.

Judge Arthur L. Sanborn of the United States District Court died at his Madison home October 18, 1920. Judge Sanborn came to Wisconsin from New York in early life. Graduating from the College of Law in 1880, he practiced law in partnership with S. U. Pinney and later with John C. Spooner. In 1905 he was appointed to the Federal bench by President Roosevelt. He was a member and for many years a curator of the State Historical Society.

Dr. Charles H. Vilas of Madison, prominent in the civic and professional life of Wisconsin and the Northwest, died at the age of seventy-four, November 22, 1920. Dr. Vilas was brought to Madison as a child by his parents in 1851 and grew to manhood here. After graduating from the University he became a highly successful practitioner of Chicago, serving for twenty-five years as president of the Hahnemann Medical College. Upon withdrawing from active practice he traveled extensively, studying the social and sanitary conditions of the regions he visited. In recent years he gave generously of his wealth to numerous institutions of his home city. He was a life member of the State Historical Society.

Dr. Henry H. Abraham, a member of this Society, died suddenly at his home in Appleton in November, 1920, aged fifty-four years. Dr. Abraham was a native of Germany who came to Wisconsin in early childhood and by industry and ability rose to eminence in his community and profession. At the time of his death he was a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners and president of the State Medical Association.

Miss Julia A. Lapham, daughter of the noted scientist of early Wisconsin, Increase A. Lapham, died of heart disease at her Oconomowoc home, January 2, 1921. Miss Lapham, like her father, was possessed of marked scholarly tastes. She manifested a deep interest in movements for community betterment and was long active in women's clubs and similar movements to this end. She served as secretary of the Waukesha County Historical Society from its organization until her death, and it is a slight indication of her fidelity to its interests that her reports to the State Historical Society were always made with commendable promptness and detail. Of the State Historical Society, in the founding of which her father bore a prominent part, she was a loyal and interested member, a letter of hers giving her recollections of the Sioux massacre of 1862 being published in the last issue of this magazine. Her most notable single service to the Society was the gift to it a few years since of the extensive collection of her father's personal manuscripts.

The Thirty-second Division in the World War, 1917-1919, a volume of 315 pages, has been issued jointly by the war history commissions of Michigan and Wisconsin. The volume is intended to be a nontechnical narrative of the Division's career, and it is announced that the official report of General Haan, commander of the Division, will be published later. The present volume is attractively printed and copiously illustrated and should constitute a valued record to all the survivors of the Division and their relatives and friends. The narrative was prepared by members of the Division while still in service; it avoids all personalities and undertakes to tell in an impersonal way the story of the Division in an entity. Such a mode of presentation has its undoubted merits. It has, also, its corresponding defects; and the "fathers and mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts" of those who belonged to the Division will look in vain for any trace of the personal element whose recital commonly enlivens narratives of this character. Since the book was produced for the gratification of precisely this group of people the wisdom of the abstinence manifested by its compilers is perhaps open to question. However this may be, we wish to commend the members of the two commissions under whose auspices the book appears for their restraint, all too infrequent, unhappily, in official publications of this character, in keeping their own portraits and histories out of the volume whose pages are devoted, as they should be, wholly to the Thirty-second Division.

It was largely due to the vision and influence of Dr. Edward Kremers, director of the Pharmacy department of the University of Wisconsin, that the interesting bequests of Colonel and Mrs. A. H. Hollister, for the furthering of work in pharmaceutical history came to the Society some years ago. Dr. Kremers has been on leave of absence from the University during the first half of the current school year, pursuing studies along the line of his dominant interest. The following letter received by the Editor December 15, 1920 gives some account of his experiences to that time.

"When I left Madison about the middle of October, I told you that I was going East on an historical pilgrimage, largely in search of local color in connection with two subjects on which I have been working recently in connection with the Hollister Pharmaceutical Library. One of these I have called 'a drug list of King Philip's War.' It is based on a document of 1675 in the Archives of the State House in Boston, of which a photostatic copy was secured about a year ago. The other is the 'Pharmacopoeia Nosocomii Militaris,' commonly called the Lititz Pharmacopoeia of 1778, of which a photostatic copy had been obtained from the Surgeon General's Library in Washington.

"For some years I have entertained the idea that some of the eastern archives must contain documents of interest to the pharmaceutical historian. So, while in search for local color, I also had my eyes open for new material. To tell you that I was not disappointed is to understate the result. To be more correct, I should say that I was soon overwhelmed with material and that I finally ran away because I had found more than I could ever hope to work up even if I had nothing else to do.

"What is more, I found that everyone with whom I came into personal contact was more than willing to coöperate. Indeed, in several instances, I had to tear myself away. Archivists and others who knew of some of the wealth of the material of which I was in search told me that never before had a pharmacist made application. They were so greatly pleased to have one come along at last that they went out of their way to help me.

"Tempting as were the kind offers to give me a desk, e. g., in the Oliver Wendell Holmes room of the Library of the Boston Medical Society on the Fenway, I longed for place in our own Library where I might work at one of the subjects in hand rather than find something new each day. However, it was a treat, and if I needed added stimulus to go ahead with our work I certainly got a sufficient dose."

A CENSUS OF OLD HOMESTEADS

In the December issue of *History Items* was published the following under the above caption:

"The State Historical Society wants to obtain and publish a census of those farms sixty years old or more, which in this year 1920 are still in the families of the men and women who created them out of pieces of wild land. It matters not from whom the title originally came, whether the United States government, the State government, or a private owner. The only condition is that the land must have been improved or made into a farm by the present owner or one of his or her ancestors.

"Owners of such family homesteads are requested to send in the requisite information about them without delay. For convenience in filing the following form should be used:

- "1. Description of land [Example: NE/4 SE/4 Sec. 7, T. No. 8 R2W]

- "2. Maker of the farm [Example: James W. Jones].
- "3. Date at which ownership began [Example: 1842].
- "4. Origin of title [Example: From U. S. Govt. Cert. of Purchase No. 5763; from State Cert. of Purchase No. 7321; from John Smith. Warranty deed, 1842].
- "5. Date of his settlement on the land [Example: 1843].
- "6. Proof of above statement as to date of settlement [Example: A letter written by the settler, or some member of his family; some instrument or transaction which is of record; statement by original owner later in life; testimony of aged neighbors knowing the facts].
- "7. Name of present owner and relationship to original farmer [Example: Wesley G. Jones, grandson of James W. Jones].
- "8. If possible give a brief sketch of the original farmer, a photograph of him, and any photographs of the farm, with approximate dates.
- "9. Description of the present farm.
- "10. Date of report.
- "Kindly send information to State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin."

Our clipping service shows that the newspapers very generally reprinted the item, and the response has been remarkable. Letters began to come in the very day after the item was printed, and they have continued to come in a steady stream since. A goodly proportion of the older counties are represented in the reports on hand, and many of the individual farms reveal in the history of their settlement the circumstances under which the distinct sections of the state were pioneered. The accounts, usually written by descendants, of the pioneer farm makers themselves are often full of human interest. In short, these reports are bringing to our collection many valuable items in the history of the people of our state.

The time before going to press with the March number of the magazine is too short to permit extended comment in this issue. But we present as an initial installment of the *Census of Old Homesteads* a report, written by Mrs. Ida L. Martin of Mukwonago, R. R. 2, on the farm begun by her father, Joseph Hosmer Stickney, in 1839:

- 1. Description of land: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 23, Town No. 5, Range No. 19 E; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14, Town No. 5, Range No. 19 E.
- 2. Maker of the farm: Joseph Hosmer Stickney.
- 3. Date at which ownership began: The land was filed or bought the second week in October, 1839, and the patent dated December 10, 1840.
- 4. Origin of title: A patent from United States government, signed by Martin Van Buren, president of United States.
- 5. Date of settlement on the land: Some time in the spring of 1839, when a log house was erected.
- 6. Proof of above statement as to date of settlement, etc., etc.: A family record in my mother's handwriting which states that

Joseph Hosmer Stickney and Achsah Ellen Haseltine were married in Vernon Township, Wisconsin, January 1, 1840.

7. Name of present owner and relationship to original farmer: Mrs. Ida L. Martin wife of Everett Martin and youngest child of original owner.
8. A brief sketch of the original farmer, etc., etc.: Joseph Hosmer Stickney was born in Andover, Vermont, October 8, 1811 and came to Vernon Township, Wisconsin, by team in company with friends, arriving here August 18, 1838. His whole life from that time was spent on this farm, with the exception of five years from the spring of 1847 until the spring of 1852, when this farm was rented and he lived at Leroy, Dodge County, Wisconsin. In 1859 he erected a commodious stone farmhouse, which at that early date was better than farmhouses generally. In the early years of his life in Wisconsin, Indians were his neighbors, and the big grey timber wolf often howled in the woods which at that time surrounded the little home. Quite a large part of the farm was covered with the sugar maple and the wooden sap troughs lay against the foot of the trees where the Indian had left them at the close of the season, for the Indian, too, liked to gather the "sugar water" to boil down for the sweetening of his daily meals. Mr. Stickney never had trouble with the "red man" but many times the "red papooses" and the white man's children sat together by the fireplace and shelled the corn the Indian had bought for family use.

The subject of this sketch rode on horseback to Chicago in October of 1839 to change the "wild cat" money he and his neighbors had for what they called "land office" money, so that they should be prepared to pay for their claims.

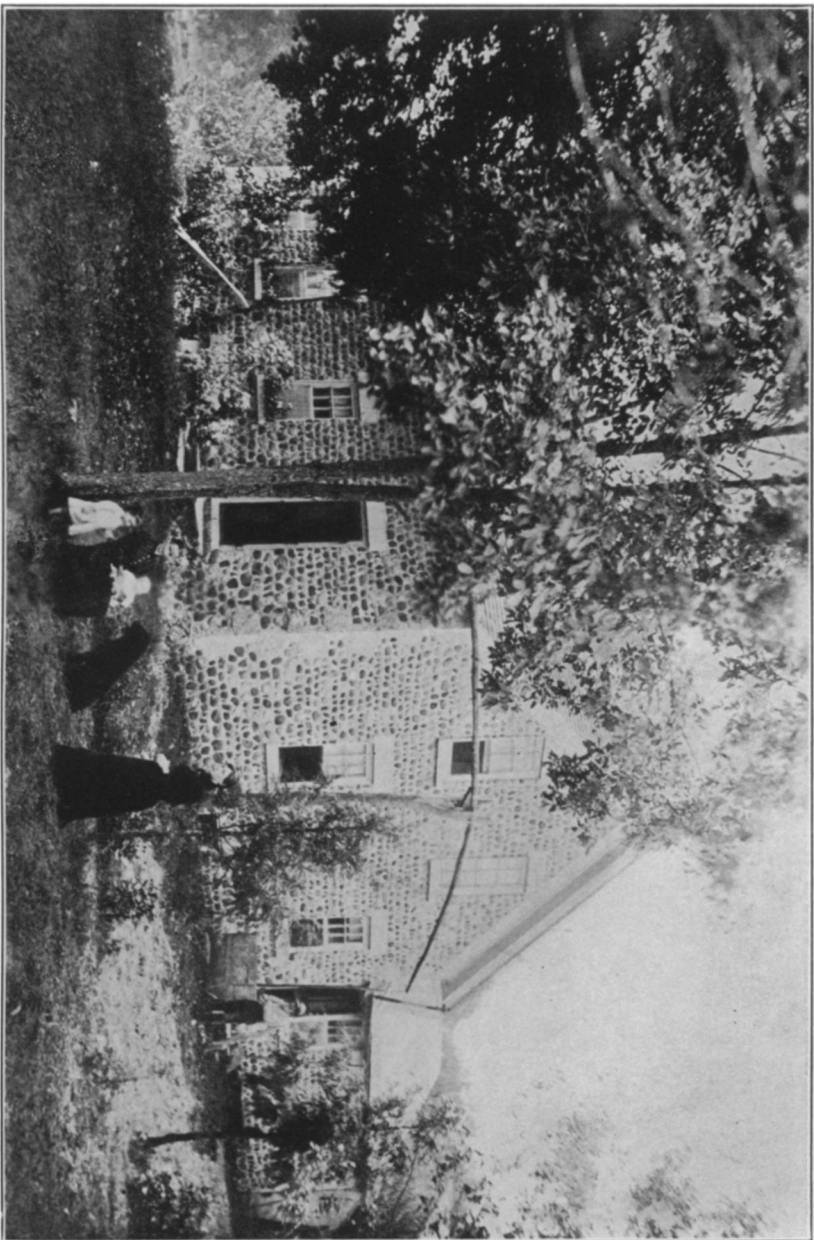
Ten children were born to this pioneer and his faithful wife. One son died in infancy, but nine children grew to man- and womanhood on this farm. Mr. Stickney lived to be eighty-four, dying January 2, 1896.

9. Description of present farm: I don't think I understand this question. If it means if the farm boundaries are just the same as when my father made claims in 1839, they are not, although the buildings are on the same section as in my father's time. My father had 640 acres, and my husband and I have now 400 acres of that farm.
10. Date of report: December 30, 1920.

JOSEPH SCHAFER.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Colonel Arthur L. Conger ("The Military Education of Grant as General") of the general staff of the army has long been known for his studies in military history and tactics. Throughout the Great War he served as assistant chief of staff to General Pershing. His notable address on "President Lincoln as War Statesman," delivered before the



HOUSE BUILT BY JOSEPH HOSMER STICKNEY IN 1859
From a photograph taken in 1884

Society in 1916, is printed in the annual volume of *Proceedings* for that year.

Deborah Beaumont Martin ("Doctor William Beaumont: His Life in Mackinac and Wisconsin, 1820-34") is librarian of the Kellogg Public Library of Green Bay. Miss Martin is the author of histories of Brown County and of Green Bay and a tireless student of Wisconsin history. She is the grandniece of Doctor William Beaumont and a daughter of Morgan L. Martin, who figured prominently in early Wisconsin history.

W. A. Titus ("Historic Spots in Wisconsin: VI Meeme: A Frontier Settlement that Developed Strong Men") concludes in this issue his series of sketches in early Wisconsin history.

Doctor William F. Whyte ("Chronicles of Early Watertown") is president of the State Board of Health and a curator of the State Historical Society. His last contribution to this magazine is entitled, "Observations of a Contract Surgeon," in the December, 1919 issue.

Carl Russell Fish ("An Historical Museum") is professor of American History in the University of Wisconsin and a curator of the State Historical Society.

SOME WISCONSIN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

The Law School of the State University is to be congratulated on the issuance of its new quarterly, termed the *Wisconsin Law Review*, the first number of which appeared in October, 1920. It is to be sent free to members of the bench and to the active members of the Wisconsin Bar Association. A small subscription price will bring the *Review* to those without the legal profession. The aim of the Journal is primarily to deal with questions of Wisconsin law and general legal matters of interest to the Wisconsin profession. The first number has for its leading article a sketch of the late Justice John B. Winslow by his successor, Justice Burr W. Jones, and Dean H. S. Richards of the Law School. The Dean also discusses "The Uniform Partnership Act." John D. Wickham presents a timely consideration of the "Statutes of Limitation in Wisconsin upon Actions for the Recovery of Land Sold for Taxes." The volume closes with "Notes on Recent Cases."

At the apex of the wedge of progressive legislation for Wisconsin stands the State Conference of Social Work, formerly called the Conference of Charities and Corrections. The conference was held at Oshkosh in October last, the University Extension department co-operating. The conference has set a mark for the nation by engaging a full-time trained executive secretary. Among those who contributed to the conference were Graham Taylor, Allen T. Burns, John A. Commons, John S. Donald, Martha Riley, Julia Lathrop, Dr. C. A. Harper, and Walter Davidson. The subjects discussed were grouped under the heads of Americanization; Industrial Relations; Rural Social Work; Public Health; Mental and Social Hygiene; and Red Cross. The *Proceedings* of the same conference for 1919 contain valuable papers on Mothers' Pensions; Minimum Wage; the Menace of the Feeble Minded; County Nurses, etc.

The State Department of Agriculture in its Bulletin 31 A gives a survey of the activities and services of this branch of the state government. It is the more interesting since Wisconsin's policy of dividing the field between the Department and the University College of Agriculture has proved so logical and practical that it is being adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture and is being copied in whole or in part by several other states. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture was formed by the legislatures of 1915 and 1917 consolidating seven distinct boards dealing with agricultural interests. There are now nine divisions, each of which has a director. The aim is "service for the farmers and other citizens." Some of the typical activities are crop reporting, with forecasts and monthly reports, and special reports on commercial crops; field control of plant diseases; tuberculosis test of dairy cattle; hog cholera control; seed testing and weed destruction; markets; and state fair advisory.

Bulletin 318 of the Agricultural Experiment Station deals scientifically with *Credit Needs of Settlers in Upper Wisconsin*. It has been prepared by the university experts, Dr. Richard T. Ely, Dr. B. H. Hibbard, and Alonzo B. Cox. In the farm development of the cut-over region there are two processes—the pioneering and the improvement stage. Credit needs are more pressing in the first period; in the second they are larger but on a better basis. The pioneering activities of clearing, farm buildings, well, fencing, tools, machinery, and live stock need a capital of a thousand to fifteen hundred dollars for normal progress. In the farm development period at least double that amount should be available. The farmer and the farm should be a sufficient basis for needed credit. The settler with some money is served by the present agencies. No credit machinery is now provided for the less well-to-do settler. The object should not be to subsidize the farmer, but to make his security as mobile as that of the manufacturer or merchant. The federal farm loan bank has already issued \$17,000,000 in upper Wisconsin. This releases local money for short-time personal loans. The settler should remember that the amount of credit he can command depends on his character, his honesty, his ability to spend money wisely.

The Conservation and the Highway commissions are endeavoring to combine historical associations with pleasure trips. In their guides to the state parks and to places of interest historical values are emphasized. The former commission issued in May the first anniversary number of the *Conservationist*. This birthday was featured by an exquisite color print of the passenger pigeon, an extinct bird, descriptions of which fill the accounts of pioneers and primitive travelers. The same number gives notice of the gift to the state of the new Pattison Park in Douglas County under the will of Senator Martin Pattison of Superior. This park comprises six hundred and sixty acres on the watershed between Lake Superior and the upper Mississippi and contains the highest waterfall in the state. It is thought to have been the site of an

early fur trade post. The Conservation Commission likewise issues a pamphlet entitled *See Wisconsin First*, in which are outlined three auto routes named, respectively, the "Flambeau Route," the "Bad Axe Trail," and the "Kickapoo Valley Tour." On these routes the historical associations are mentioned. The Highway Commission accompanies its *Official Map of the State Trunk Highway System of Wisconsin* with a "Brief History of Wisconsin" and an "Index to Historical Points." The latter comprises twenty-nine historical points indicated on the map by green circles. Some of the statements are made more authoritatively than historical criticism admits—such as the exact landfall of Nicolet, the site of Father Ménard's death, and the dates of the explorations of Radisson and Groseilliers. Joliet's name is spelled with one "l"; Fort "St. Nichols" should be "St. Nicolas"; Fort Shelby was not built at Prairie du Chien in 1813 but in 1814; the several sites of Fort Crawford are not indicated; and the second territorial assembly met at Madison in 1838, not in 1836. In the "Brief History," there is an hiatus of some sort concerning the War of 1812. These slight inaccuracies should be corrected in the next edition of the guide.

In the June number of the magazine the appeal of the State Board of Education was noticed. The board issued a pamphlet (March to May, 1920) on "Educational Programs as outlined by Educators, Labor, Business Men, and Farmers." The chief need, according to the opinion of the board, is for an educational policy, instead of the present-day opportunism. The board, as a help in the formulation of a policy, has collected citations from such available programs as are announced, especially by the voice of Labor which everywhere is demanding a democratic educational system. One striking fact in the examination of the several programs is the comparative lack of emphasis on higher education. The institutions offering this form are sufficiently articulate; the new programs consider that "it is better to elevate the mass ever so little than to raise a few ever so high." There follows the program of the State Federation of Labor recommending a minimum wage for teachers of one hundred dollars a month; the compulsory attendance age to be placed at sixteen; part-time compulsory attendance to be raised to eighteen with twelve required hours per week; appropriations for aiding deserving students to secure a higher education; the adult special age at the university to be lowered to eighteen; increase of mothers' pensions; labor representation on school boards; no military training in the lower schools. Business men's programs are few; nor have the farmers yet formulated an educational program of note unless the resolutions of the Society of Equity on rural schools and compulsory attendance may so be called. The pamphlet is intended to stimulate public opinion concerning the burning questions of democratic educational policy.

With a similar purpose the Extension Division of the University has issued a careful monograph by Mrs. Edith E. Hoyt on *Parent-Teachers Associations*. These associations are performing a community service and building up tolerance and co-operation among the various

elements of the community. By their unselfish purpose to serve future citizens they create a vehicle by which the community can come into constructive relationship with the school in practical ways. The association should not be a critical but a sympathetic organization; it is not intended to pass upon the teachers' qualifications nor methods, but to furnish a means of information whereby the parents may better understand the aims of the teacher and the purpose of the school system. It is a democratic organization, not an exclusive club; the only barrier is childlessness. The little book furnishes practical instructions for the formation of an association, for subjects to discuss, and for types of recreation. These associations are one of the many means by which Americanization is being promoted and strengthened.